

THE ANTIQUARIAN.

SATURDAY, JUNE 17th, 1871.

THE PLEASURE OF STUDYING
ARCHÆOLOGY.

ARCHÆOLOGY is a wide field of positive facts, and teaches severally the progressive steps of development man has made in the arts and sciences. It is, in its highest type of development, a continuity of labour, and captivates the inquiring mind by the ever recurring and striking contrast of facts, objectively and positively. We catch, in a broad survey of ancient objects, constant and speaking glimpses of the needs, manners, and even thoughts of the past, which survive in the present. The ebb and flow of the ocean leave not more certainly its marks, sometimes higher and sometimes lower on the beach, than do the flux and reflux of time on the history and the monuments of man. The historic periods of art are as well marked in a nation's life as the geologic is unmistakably defined in the earth.

As subjects of illustration we will consider some modern objects in relation to their ancient forms, and by this simple process make our meaning more patent. Take, for instance, the fusil of the 16th century, a cumbrous weapon. The first example extant speaks of progress from the bow and arrow to a superior engine of destruction. But what a gap between that musket and its youngest brother, the Enfield—a marvel of elegance and lightness. The clumsy pieces of the soldiers of the Revolution compared to the present portable arm of precision, which is as elegant as it is deadly, is as incongruous as Hyperion to Satyr. The former barely threw a bullet sixty yards, while the latter, in its successive progressive improvements, propels a ball 1000 yards with more force and directness of aim. What a lesson does not a wise and contemplative survey of man's progress convey!

Take another example in the peaceful arts; look at the angular figures on the canvas of the pre-Raffaelite period, and then look on the warmth, the gorgeousness, and the graceful rotundity of outline which followed the revival of the true and beautiful in painting. The hard and harsh lines gave way to the graceful curve—formalism to nature. Then, again, take for consideration a series of prints, dating from the earliest to the present time, in which, from the internal evidence afforded, we can follow the successive "progresses" of the art of engraving. Each generation of artists supplies a contribution, a light by which we are enabled to read the pages of the past. There is no hindrance, the series speak for themselves, and are a test of progression or retrogression. Is not such a study pleasant and refresh-

ing, which makes us acquainted with the falling off, or deficiency, or advancement of our forefathers?

It is no surprise that many take an interest in Archæology, it is so full of interest and attraction. Then, again, take that fruitful subject for the pen of a poet, Pottery, in all its varied aspects, from the Etruscan vases to the ceramic ware of Wedgwood, or the delicate tracery and transparency of the manufacture of Sèvres. What a revolution in taste and in art is included between those two periods! Do we not see all the stages of man's wants in a clear and studious survey of the uses of these innumerable ceramic articles? From the wooden plates to the costly and elegant china services of the present time, what a range for meditation! In ecclesiology, can anything give us a higher idea of the fervour and devotion of the early times than those magnificent architectural piles raised by the munificence of our forefathers; and do we not trace in legible characters, within those sacred walls, the progress of church architecture in Britain—from the parish church, a model of simplicity consonant to the ignorance of the time, to the glorious creations of the revival of letters and arts? All these are not precious or venerable solely on account of their antiquity, but because they give us a just appreciation of the past. Their happy conception, their skilful elaboration, their intrinsic merits, are their sole recommendation. We are curious about them, because they are worthy of our attention—we are anxious for their preservation, because they have fossilised the soul of the past in their form—and in their presence we converse familiarly with the past, all this independently of their merits as objects and works of art.

The study of Archæology leads the mind upward—and, in its tendency, teaches man that materialism is foolishness, that spiritualism is life. The student who takes in his ken the fact, which cannot escape him, that man constantly improves on his method from better to better; that his idea is constantly elaborating the plastic world of matter, and as his needs require and his sagacity suggests, and fancy dictates, works up all into combination and oneness to satisfy the longing of his soul and genius, in quest of the true and beautiful—educing artistic form and utility with grace or beauty, from the most imperfect and gross conception; the student whose labour is in such a field must surely feel the consciousness that man is little less than an angel. Everywhere Archæology adorns a tale, and points a moral, in the rudest pieces of masonry extant as well as in a stone hatchet.

ACCORDING to an estimate in the *Vérité*, the recent destruction of property in Paris, including houses, furniture, securities, works of art, &c., is valued at eight hundred millions of francs.

BATH FIELD CLUB EXCURSION.

On the 23rd May, the Club, by the kind invitation of Mr. Buxton Whalley, visited Midford Castle, where they were met in the park by that gentleman and conducted through the grounds to the chapel attached to the castle, where they examined the reredos, which contains a variety of sculptured subjects—Scriptural and legendary. The castle was built by Mr. Disney Roebuck, about 1787, and is a triangular building with towers at the angles. After examining the paintings and other curiosities of the mansion, they were courteously entertained at luncheon, before starting for Wellow, where they arrived in the afternoon, and visited the church under the guidance of the vicar. This church, which is one of the most interesting in the county of Somerset, and contains probably more original work than any other, the roof and seating being original, and only repaired and repolished when the church was restored in 1845, occupied considerable attention. It was deemed worthy of a visit by the Somersetshire Archaeological and Natural History Society in 1851, and has also been visited by the Archaeological Institute. According to Collinson, the abbot and convent of Cirencester were the patrons of this church, which was granted to them by their founder, Henry I., A.D. 1133, but the church, which exhibits two or three styles of architecture, was probably almost wholly rebuilt at the cost of Sir Walter Hungerford, A.D. 1372, its principal features being of that date. The interior contains a very interesting effigy of a priest, which was discovered buried outside the south wall of the chancel when the church was restored in 1845. There is also a debased monument of the early part of the seventeenth century to a lady of the Popham family, with a Latin epitaph under it, and some memorials of the Hungerford family; the church is dedicated to St. Julian. There are some ancient mural paintings on the north and east wall of the side aisle, and a rood screen of ancient though not very elaborate work divides the chancel from the nave.

After completing the inspection of the church, the party having procured the necessary means for lighting up the tumulus at Stoney Littleton, a mile distant, proceeded to walk thither. This very interesting barrow has been carefully described in the proceedings of the Somersetshire Archaeological and Natural History Society. It was first described by Sir R. C. Hoare (*Archæologia*, vol. xix., pp. 43-48) from drawings and measurements made by the Rev. J. Skinner, Rector of Camerton, which is the parish adjoining to Wellow. When the party arrived at the tumulus, and had entered in and inspected the interior, they were assembled at the entrance by the Rev. H. M. Scarth, who gave them an account of its discovery, and of the nature of its contents when first opened. He reminded the Club that last year they had visited a similar chambered tumulus at Uleybury in Gloucestershire, in which county several barrows of a somewhat similar kind had been opened, and their contents and the arrangement of their chambers described. None were however so perfect as that at Stoney Littleton, which he believed to be the only *perfect one* existing in this country, and therefore it ought to be very carefully preserved. Some years since (A.D. 1854) it had been injured by the falling in of two of the side chambers; this having been discovered by two members of the Field Club, and an application made for permission to restore it, the stones were replaced as formerly, and the exact form of the barrow remained uninjured. Mr. Scarth hoped that this might be done to the tumulus at Uleybury, which had been to all appearance wantonly injured. The Club had, however, called attention to its present ruined condition and pleaded for its preservation. It was much to be regretted that any of these ancient sepulchres of our British or Celtic forefathers should be wantonly destroyed. They were now standing upon a spot where many successive periods of history were distinctly marked. There was this barrow, which probably existed before the Romans set foot in this island. There were in the field called Wellow Hayes, on the north side of the brook which runs through the valley, and almost directly opposite

to this tumulus, the foundations and floors of a very interesting Roman villa, which had been uncovered when the Somersetshire Archaeological Society visited this spot, and which had all been carefully drawn and described by the Rev. J. Skinner, and an abbreviated account of them would be found in "*Aquæ Solis*." Then there was the handsome mediæval church which they had just visited, marking a third period in our national history, and its growth into a great and settled nation, with all the blessings of Christian ordinances.

After instancing other tumuli, and especially the one which was known to have existed at Nempnet, in the parish of Butcombe (which was not far from his own parish of Wrington), Mr. Scarth described how that tumulus had been wantonly destroyed for the sake of the limestone of which it was composed. Happily an account of it, together with drawings, had been preserved. In this one the chambers run entirely through the whole length of the barrow, but at Wellow they only penetrated about half way, while at Uleybury they were clustered about the entrance. Having alluded to the researches of the late Sir R. C. Hoare and Mr. Skinner in past times, and in recent Dr. Thurnam, among the Wilts barrows, the Rev. Samuel Lysons, in Gloucestershire, and the indefatigable labours of Canon Greenwell in the north of England, by whom the results of his researches were carefully classified and arranged, and who had obtained much information from the contents he had found, Mr. Scarth explained the form of the barrow, and conducted the party round it, pointing out where the walling, wherever it had fallen, had been carefully replaced, and upright stones marked the extent of the repairs. Originally the whole had been covered with soil; it was only in recent times that the dry walling, which now formed the boundary of the tumulus, had been uncovered. It was much to be regretted that when the entrance to this tumulus was first discovered, the contents were found to have been disturbed and the chambers rifled, and nothing that could accurately fix the date had been found, but the internal construction appeared to show that no iron tool had been used in its formation; it was constructed of flat slabs of the stone that abounded in the neighbourhood, and small fragments collected from the surface of the ground filled up the interstices of the chambers, and composed the dry walling around. The party returned to the vicarage, where they partook of tea, and afterwards returned to Bath. They were accompanied on the excursion by Mr. and Mrs. Buxton Whalley, besides having the advantage of the presence of Mr. Vaux, lately over the department of medals and coins in the British Museum, and several other visitors.

The distance of Wellow from Bath is about five miles, and Stoney Littleton a little more than a mile beyond Wellow.

OLD CITY MANSION IN MARK LANE.—Mr. Edward I'Anson, in the course of a paper lately read by him before the Institution of Surveyors, referred to the altered aspect of the City since 1815, when, and for many years subsequently, the merchants of the City used to live over their counting-houses. Most of the buildings then existing have now been altogether demolished or entirely altered to adapt them to modern requirements. One of the finest of these old City mansions (said Mr. I'Anson), which is now being not quite destroyed, but converted, is situate in Mark Lane, and belonged to the Baring family. Although long disused as a residence, it has existed till this day with all its essential features unchanged. With its carved oaken portal, its marble-paved hall, its ballustraded staircase, panelled walls, and its garden with a fountain in the centre, and its fig trees, which, or until a few days since, still remained, it is a perfect type of the residence of a merchant of the last century. All these interesting features, however, will soon be entirely obliterated, and the house and garden converted into strictly business offices.

MR. GODALL, R.A., has sold his Egyptian sketches to Mr. Solomon for 6000*l*.

COLCHESTER MUSEUM.

DURING the last month the number of visitors to this institution was 2005 as compared with 947 last year, an increase attributable mainly to the 600 who visited the museum at the late flower show of the Colchester and East Essex Horticultural Society and to Whitsun holiday makers. The following additional contributions have been received:—Miss Baker, of Walton-on-the-Naze, has, through Dr. Bree, contributed 8 Roman bronze coins, a silver penny of Henry VI., and a silver sixpence of Queen Elizabeth, two copper tokens, a Roman urn and fragments of others found on the Copperas ground at Walton and four fragments of glass; Mons. Virtue, a collection of valuable specimens of geology collected by him while in Bermuda, small Roman bottle found in Colchester, small Roman urn with handle, specimens of early English pottery, also of very fine mosaic pavements, eighteen specimens of mineralogy from various places, and two of coral, a cast of a large seal and two casts of coins, together with a very valuable cast taken from an Egyptian tomb with the following details of it:—"Among the many relics of antiquity recovered in Egypt and brought to England by Mr. Belzoni there is a mutilated statue in basalt of a kneeling figure which supports on its knees a small square altar, above which there is an oblong square recess in which is an upright figure in high relief representing Osiris. In his left hand he holds the pastoral crook, and in his right hand the flail. The front of the altar is covered with an inscription in hieroglyphics in good preservation, of which this plaster cast is an exact copy. The above statue, which is believed to date 600 years before Christ, was found among the ruins of the ancient city of Thebes, in Egypt, and was brought along with many more to the British Museum in 1821." Mr. Gunnell, Lexden, has given a South Sea Islander's dress; Mr. H. J. Church, Colchester, a rubbing of a brass, framed, and very curious; the Rev. H. Jenkins, Stanway, a large and admirable map of Colchester, by Mr. Parish, of Colchester, showing where Roman antiquities have been found in this town; Mr. Jeffries, Brightlingsea, a small Roman urn, fossil bones and shells dredged in the Colne; the Rev. G. Wilkins, of Wix, fossil bones found at Wix, fine mineral from Cornwall, specimens of other minerals from other parts; Mr. F. A. Cole, Colchester, a silver schilling, Hamburg, date 1730, and a copper dumpty, from Ceylon; Mr. Solomon Went, of Brightlingsea, through Mr. F. A. Cole, Colchester, a large fossil bone of an extinct animal dredged up in the River Colne; and Mr. W. Lee, Nayland, a copper Indian pice and a farthing of the reign of George II.

THE HAY COLLECTION.

WE learn that the celebrated collection of Egyptian Antiquities, made by the late artist antiquary, Robert Hay, of Linlithgow, Scotland, recently exhibited at the Crystal Palace, has been purchased for 1000*l.* by a well known banker in Boston, U.S.A., and it is now being shipped for that city.

It was the last Egyptian collection of any extent in England, and was made above thirty years ago by Mr. R. Hay during his travels in Egypt.

We regret that so valuable a collection should be allowed to leave this country, and congratulate America on the acquisition of so important and, in many respects, unique an addition to its antiquities.

ST. LEONARD'S.—A very rich and costly altar-cloth, a magnificent specimen of the embroidery of the 14th century, has just been presented to the above church by a lady well-known for her interest in church work—the widow of a clergyman long resident in this neighbourhood. The assortment of colour is very chaste and beautiful, and the patterns themselves are very striking—being taken from some embroidery at Ely, Romsey Abbey, East Langdon, and other well-known places.

ANTIQUITIES OF LONDON.

THE following is extracted from the *City Press*:—

The eminent antiquary, John Bagford, in a letter to John Leland, dated from the Charterhouse, February 1, 1714-15, thus describes a piece of sculpture found in Mark Lane, of which a print is preserved in Leland's works.

"And now I shall take notice of a very great curiosity found in Mark-lane, more properly called Mart-lane, it being a place where the Romans, and not improbably the ancient Britains, used to barter their commodities, as tin, lead, &c., with other nations, it may be with the Greeks, who often came into this island to purchase the like goods. Whence I am apt to conjecture that the name of the lane hath been continued ever since the times of the Romans, and that the names of some other lanes and streets, as Cornhill, Grace-street, the Querne, Broad-street, Watling-street, and, perhaps, Old Fish-street, &c., are of equal antiquity, and were called from the same kind of accidents.

"The curiosity I am speaking of, is a brick, found about forty years since twenty-eight foot deep below the pavement, by Mr. Stockley, as he was digging the foundation of an house that he built for Mr. Wolley. Near to this place was dug up many quarters of wheat, burnt very black, but yet sound; which were conjectured to have lain buried ever since the burning of this city about 860 years before. This brick is of a Roman make, and was a key brick to the arch where the corn was found. 'Tis made of a curious red clay, and in bass-relief on the front, hath the figure of Sampson putting fire to the foxes taylor, and driving them into a field of corn. It seems to be the same story that is mentioned in Scripture of destroying the Philistines' corn, from whence came the fable of Hercules, to be the guardian of their corn stores or granaries; as they had their peculiar deities for all domestick affairs in or near their houses or camps, as Priapus was the protector of their gardens, &c., not to mention many other household gods of several names and uses.

"This brick is at this time preserved in the museum belonging to the Royal Society, in Fleet-street, from whence I have caused an accurate draught of it to be sent to you; at the same time not forgetting to acquaint you that the late ingenious Richard Waller, Esq. (whose death is much lamented by the Virtuoso of this place), communicated to me the following account of the measure of it, as it was exactly taken, viz.:—On the picture, or largest face, 4 inches broad, 5½ inches long: on the reverse side, 3-7.10ths inches broad, 5-1.10th inches long; thickness, 2-4.10ths inches. At the same time Mr. Waller observed to me in his letter, that the proportions of the bass-relieve are so very fine, that it is plain from thence that it cannot be a work of the Bass empire; but then, says he, 'How the story of Sampson should be known to the Romans, much less to the Britains, so early after the time of the propagation of the Gospel seems to be a great doubt; except it should be said that some Jews after the final destruction of Jerusalem should wander into Britain, and London being, even in Caesar's time, a port or trading city, they might settle here, and in the arch of their own granary record the famous story of their delivery from their captivity under the Philistines. Be that as it will, the thing is very curious, and 'tis plain by the impressions that it was made by a mould or stamp; so that, doubtless, there were many of the same made.'

This is truly a very curious discovery, coupled with the late find of the remains of Roman pavements, Samian ware, and a number of Roman Querns for grinding corn in Mark Lane, which all go to prove the deductions of Mr. Bagford to be correct. In conclusion, I am desirous of discovering where this most interesting piece of sculpture is now located.

MARK LANE.

ONE of the oldest, if not the oldest, of Welsh bards, Macowy Mon, died in humble circumstances at Bangor last week, at the ripe age of eighty-seven.

DEATH OF SIR OSWALD MOSLEY, BART.

DEATH has severed another connecting link of the past with the present generation, and has removed from amongst us one of the best examples of an "English Country Gentleman." Sir Oswald Mosley, Bart., died at his seat, Rolleston Hall, in Staffordshire, on the 26th ult., at the advanced age of 86. He was born on the 27th of March, 1785, married on the 31st of January, 1804, the second daughter of Sir Edward Every, of Egginton, Bart., and leaves eight children.

His family trace their descent from Ernald, a Saxon Thane, who, prior to the year 1200, held an estate at Moseley, near Wolverhampton, and lived there, and, according to the custom of those times, assumed the name of Ernald de Moseley, from the name of his estate and place of residence. His successors, by marriage and by forensic and commercial ability, and notably Sir Richard Moseley, of Hough End, Lord Mayor of London, and High Sheriff of Lancashire in 1604 (to whom a crest, to be borne with his arms, was granted in 1592), and his brother Anthony, added to their patrimonial estates, and accumulated a large fortune.

The baronetage, first granted in 1640, had twice expired, and was renewed in 1781 by a grant to Sir John Parker Moseley, Sir Oswald's grandfather, whom Sir Oswald succeeded in September, 1798. Not insensible to the honour of rank and ancient descent, nor giving to them undue prominence, Sir Oswald was not content to repose upon the past, the *genus et proavos et quæ non fecimus ipsi*, but added to and adorned them by those personal qualities of heart and mind which make a man, and which made him honourably distinguished among men. His social position and great wealth relieved him from the necessity of exertion, but he used his inherited advantages as a stimulus to increasing efforts for self-improvement and the benefit of others. His aims were elevated, various, and pursued with untiring energy. Sir Oswald sat in Parliament for several sessions, first for Portarlington in 1807, then for Winchelsea and Midhurst 1808-1816, and for the Northern Division of Staffordshire during two Parliaments. He served the office of High Sheriff for the County of Stafford in 1814. He held for nine years the office of Chairman of the Quarter Sessions for that county, and discharged the duties of that position with impartiality and urbanity, blended with dignity. He was many years an active magistrate for the counties of Stafford and Derby.

He was a good classic. He published an interesting "History of the Castle, Priory, and Town of Tutbury," which shows his wonted industry in collecting and arranging information. This history contains a notice of the impostor Ann Moore, the fasting woman of Tutbury, who pretended, and by many credulous people was believed, to have lived without food. He also wrote an account of the "Ancient British Church," which, in a small compass, gives a large amount of information as to the origin and progress of that Church. He was a member of several learned societies, D.C.L., F.G.S., and L.S.M.R.T., and studied, with that success which rewards industry, archaeology, geology, mineralogy, horticulture, natural history, botany, painting, and other subjects which contribute to make an accomplished gentleman.

He established a Benefit Society at Rolleston upon sound and safe principles at a time when those principles were imperfectly understood, and many such associations broke down for want of knowledge or care in framing their rules and scales of allowances. He was a constant and practical friend of education, which he supported with liberality and judgment, and by his own personal attendance and aid in the schools of his own parish. He received an early religious training from his grandfather, Sir John Parker Mosley, who superintended with scrupulous fidelity the religious education of his grandchildren. The good seed thus sown fell upon good ground. The Christian faith and practice inculcated by him were very early adopted by Sir Oswald, remained unshaken by the dissipation of College life at that day, and

were adhered to through his long and consistent life with the courage and constancy inspired by deep conviction and earnest feeling. They were his standard and guide, gave him comfort in his passage through life, and brought him peace at the last. In his youth the profession of religion was unfashionable. The ministrations of religion in his own parish during the incumbency of an eccentric rector, one of his immediate predecessors, had been careless and ineffective. In those times the authoritative guiding hand of a serious influential layman was of great value. Such a guide Sir Oswald was. The exigencies of the times required a good example, backed by authority, kindly, but resolute. Sir Oswald supplied both. His authority was never inflamed to passion, nor degenerated to feebleness, but used temperately and firmly for the repression of what was evil, and the encouragement of all that was good. The gentleness of his authority was shown by his treatment of children. He was fond of them, and they esteemed him. It was delightful to see this man of rank and wealth, of varied attainments and refined and cultivated tastes, adapting himself to the capacities of village children, assembling them around him, at once their teacher and their friend, winning their confidence and engaging their regard. One instance may suffice as an illustration of the kindly exercise of his authority. He met in his village two boys, the younger angry and crying, the other scolding because the younger refused to go to school. He took the refractory youngster tenderly by the hand, conducted him to the school, remained until his lesson was ended, and then with a few kind and encouraging words left him there. The boy avoided school no more, and grew up an industrious and respectable man. To all comes the common end. To Sir Oswald it came with the comforting recollection of a well-spent life, of a talent diligently and worthily employed. He acted in the spirit of his own pithy and comprehensive words, "We are the stewards of God's gifts, and if we waste the talents committed to our charge, what account can we render to our Omniscient Judge for hours wasted in idleness, for opportunities of doing good to our fellow-creatures neglected, and for the Holy Spirit's aid wilfully rejected?" Gradual decline reduced his bodily strength, but left his mind unimpaired. The vigour of his constitution yielded slowly and without suffering to natural decay; the tide of life ebbed peacefully away to him, though, at the last, painfully to sorrowing friends, and he resigned his spirit to God who gave it, in the well-grounded hope of a joyful resurrection.

THE WATER-GATE AT THE END OF BUCKINGHAM STREET, STRAND.—The water gate at the end of Buckingham Street, in the Strand, erected by George Villiers, the first Duke of Buckingham, for access to his mansion, York House, yet remains; but it is now sunk below the level of the adjoining ground at the back of the Thames Embankment. This gate (said Mr. P. Anson in the course of a paper read before the Institution of Surveyors), erroneously attributed to Inigo Jones, was designed and built by Nicholas Stone, sen., master mason to King James I. and King Charles. At that time river stairs were numerous.

A FEW days since the workmen engaged in pulling down some old buildings in Coleshill Street, Birmingham, belonging to Mr. Counsellor Taylor, found among the *débris* an interesting historical relic in the shape of a bronze medal, struck 114 years ago to commemorate the victory of Frederick the Great at Rosbach, during the "Seven Years' War." The medal is in a remarkably fine state of preservation. Frederick the Great is represented on horseback with his sword drawn, his legions being encamped in the background, and there is the following inscription:—"Fredericus Borussiae Rex Lissa, Dec. 5. Breslau recepta, Dec. 20, 1757." The obverse bears in relief a scene representing the thickest of the fight at the battle of Rosbach, and the words:—"Quo nihil majus. Rosbach, Nov. 5, 1757."

SOCIETIES' MEETINGS.

[Secretaries of Archaeological and Antiquarian Societies throughout the Kingdom will confer a favour by forwarding to the Editor of this Journal all Notices and Reports of Meetings, and also their Periodical Publications.]

SOCIETY OF BIBLICAL ARCHÆOLOGY.

A MEETING of this Society was held on the 6th of June, when Samuel Birch, Esq., LL.D., F.S.A., president, was in the chair.

The following ladies and gentlemen were proposed by the council for election at the next meeting:—Rev. A. H. Sayce, M.A., Oxford; E. R. Hodges, Esq., late of Jerusalem; Mrs. J. W. Bosanquet, and Miss Dorothy Best, of Maidstone.

George Smith, Esq. (British Museum), read an elaborate and interesting paper on the Early History of Babylonia, commencing with a *resumé* of facts already ascertained from the labours of Sir Henry Rawlinson, and other English and continental students. He proceeded to describe *seriatim* the principal localities where excavations had been carried on, and to identify them with several places mentioned in the earlier portions of the Pentateuch. A chronological list of kings, and a brief account of the military and political changes, in which were introduced many new facts derived from contemporary inscriptions, concluded the first part of the paper. In its second division the Theology, the Arts, the Social and Moral Characteristics of the Ancient Chaldeans were examined, and the examination was further illustrated by the exhibition of sundry casts of ancient bricks and cylinders, translations of which were also given.

J. W. Bosanquet, Esq., F.R.A.S., treasurer, read an able paper "On the date of the Nativity," considering in detail the facts of the occurrence, and of the government of Cyrenius, and the census of Augustus, as recorded in the gospel and by Josephus. The various eclipses, astronomical data, and political disturbances incidentally connected with these events, were enumerated, and the author reasoning from all together, was disposed to place the period of the birth of Christ either in the autumn of the year 3, or early in the spring of 2 before the Christian era.

Considerable discussion followed the reading of these papers, in which their authors, the president, W. R. A. Boyle, Dr. Cull, Professor Donaldson, S. M. Drael, Rev. T. M. Gumen, E. H. Palmer, and Revs. J. M. Rodwell and George Smith, took part.

At the close of the discussion, the president exhibited several beautiful and curious Hebrew and Ancheric MSS., the property of the Rev. Greville Chester, Walter de Gray Birel, Esq., undertaking to comment upon the same.

The meeting, which was numerously attended, was a very protracted one, and the company did not separate till a late hour.

ARCHÆOLOGICAL INSTITUTE.

A MEETING of the members was held on Friday, June 2nd, when Mr. Octavius Morgan, M.P., was in the chair.

Archdeacon Trollope sent a photograph and notice of a sculptured fragment of a Roman tomb lately found at Lincoln, on the site of the new church of St. Swithun, on the west of the lower Roman town. It is the upper portion of a tablet representing a young man with crisp curling hair, holding in his hands a hare, represented as alive.

The Chairman exhibited a small oval plaque of enamel, date 1674, representing some battle on the Ponte St. Angelo, at Rome.

Mr. Holliday exhibited fragments of encaustic tiles, drawings, &c., illustrating the discovery of tiles on the site of the Abbey of Hales Owen, Worcestershire, of which a large number had been found in a very broken state. The patterns were almost identical with the beautiful and well-known Chertsey tiles, and it was suggested that they were made in the same moulds and at the same kiln.

Sir E. H. Lechmere, Bart., exhibited a profile portrait of Our Lord, an example of the type of the Emerald Vernicle of the Vatican, described by Mr. King in the *Architectural Journal*, but probably earlier in execution than those previously exhibited.

Mr. Parker gave an account of the remains of the House of Pudens and Claudia, the friends of St. Paul, in Rome. During the last winter fresh circumstances had come to light confirming the conclusions at which Mr. Parker had long since arrived, that the Church of S. Pudentiana covered a part of the site of the house of Pudens, the Roman senator. Cardinal Bonaparte, the successor of Cardinal Wiseman, is restoring that church, and in the course of their operations the workmen laid open two chambers which presented undoubted evidences of work of the first century, altered in the second. They had remains of painting of that period, and were evidently some of the subterranean chambers of a patrician's house. The legends of the Roman, the Greek, and the British Churches all agree respecting the family of Pudens, and authorities indicate the site of the Church of S. Pudentiana as the place where he lived. His son, Novatus, added *therma* to the house, and remains of hot air flues were seen in the chambers lately brought to light. After the death of Pudens, the house became a place of resort for foreign Christians coming to Rome, especially in times of persecution, when the underground chambers could be turned to good account.

Mr. Parker exhibited photographs showing the construction of the chambers, and a ground-plan of the site.

Mr. Nightingale exhibited a bronze key, of fine workmanship, but damaged by decay, lately dug up on some cottage allotment gardens at Wilton, where several Mediæval relics have been found.

Mr. Hippisley sent a singular implement of Oriental or Moorish work, a small shallow patera of bronze, perforated, and having a jointed handle.

The Rev. S. Banks sent two small implements of hard close-grained stone, found at Cottenham, near Cambridge, and which may have been burnishers or possibly touchstones.

Mr. Dundas sent a sculptured crucifix of ivory; the character of design unusual, possibly copied from works of earlier date.

Mr. Shurlock exhibited a flint celt found in the mud thrown out of the moat of Foster House, Thorpe Leigh, near Egham.

THE OXFORD ARCHITECTURAL SOCIETY.

At the first excursion of this society this term the members and their friends, numbering altogether about sixty, assembled in Christ Church Meadow, and shortly afterwards embarked on one of Salter's large barges for Sandford. After passing through Ifley Lock, a business meeting of the society was held on the top of the barge, while gliding down the stream. Professor Westwood occupied the chair. Several new members were elected, and others proposed.

Mr. James Parker then gave a brief account of the archaeology of the Thames, observing, in the course of his remarks, that he believed the upper portion to be properly called the Isis, the word Thames arising from the Thame, which flows into the river at Dorchester, and the word Eise, which is analogous to Exe, Usk, and other similar streams in the kingdom. He added that the Thames in Saxon times formed the great boundary between the kingdoms of Mercia and the West Saxons.

The party on landing at Sandford proceeded to the church, the early history of which was given by Mr. Parker, and a fine specimen of stone carving, dug up when the church was restored, was explained by Professor Westwood. This relic represents a full length figure of the Virgin, surrounded by angels, and at her foot is a reliquary, supported by two angels. The stone is now fixed in the south wall of the church.

Afterwards the party proceeded to Temple Farm, and the remains of an establishment of Knight Templars, formerly existing there, were inspected.

The party then proceeded northwards, skirting the Thame railway, and visited the remains of the "Mynchery," a religious establishment, now also forming a portion of a farm, and its history was explained by Mr. Parker.

The party then visited Littlemore Church, the history of which was explained by the Rev. G. W. Huntingford, vicar.

The party then proceeded to Kennington Island, where they re-embarked to the Long Bridges and the College boat-races.

The next excursion was to be to Bicester, Middleton Stoney, Chesterton, and Alcester; the third excursion to Stanton Harcourt; and the last to Kenilworth.

OXFORD ARCHITECTURAL AND HISTORICAL SOCIETY.

EXCURSION TO KENILWORTH.

THERE is nothing unusual for a party of archaeologists to visit the old Keep and Castle of Kenilworth; but some special interest was attached to the visit of the members of the Oxford Architectural and Historical Society to the old pile on the 3rd instant, in consequence of the recent alterations and excavations which have taken place within the Castle precincts.

The party, which consisted of about sixty members and their friends, arrived at Warwick, where omnibuses were waiting to convey them to Kenilworth. Among them were—Mr. J. H. Parker, author of "The Domestic Architecture of England;" Mr. James Parker, Mr. J. W. Lowndes (a well-known local journalist), Mr. J. S. Treacher, M.A. (the Secretary), and other antiquarian friends.

A pleasant drive along the Warwick road, by Guy's Cliffe, Blacklow Hill, and Leek Wootton, soon brought the visitors to the oddly-named California, near the ancient entrance to the Castle, at the outworks known as the Brayes. Here they were met by the Rev. Mr. Knowles, Mr. J. Tom Burgess, Mr. Rye, and a few other friends from Leamington and the neighbourhood. After an interchange of greetings, every visitor was presented with a ground plan of the Castle, printed in tints to show the various periods at which it was built. The party entered the Castle grounds by the roadway leading to the Castle lake. They stopped a few minutes to inspect the site of the flood-gates near the Gallery Tower, and then proceeded along the roadway on the south of the Tilt-yard to Mortimer's Tower, where Mr. Knowles pointed out some remains of the old barbican yet existing at the base of the tower. This gave rise to a slight discussion between Mr. James Parker and Mr. Knowles, and the party then went into the Castle grounds. The first place visited was the south-west corner of the great Keep, where Mr. J. Parker stood upon one of the seats, and proceeded to give a brief account of the history of the Norman remains of the Castle. He pointed out the fact that the large mass of buildings which they saw before them was undoubtedly a Norman Keep erected by Geoffrey de Clinton, in the reign of Henry I. He was a man of whom they knew but little, but he was believed to have been raised from a humble station in life to be a chamberlain and treasurer to the king. The exact date of the foundation of the Castle was not known, but the key note to it was found in a charter granted by Geoffrey de Clinton. He could not, however, tell the exact date of that charter, but it was between 1123 and 1125. In it Geoffrey de Clinton stated that he should retain to himself a particular portion of the land of Kenilworth for building himself a castle and making a park around it. Therefore, if he did not commence to build the castle about this time, he was preparing to do so. Previous to this date, Kenilworth was only incidentally mentioned in Doomsday.

Mr. Parker then pointed out that the Keep itself was a

very large one, ranking about the third largest in England; that of the Tower of London being the first. He drew attention to the solid masonry at the base of each tower, the existence of the well in the south-west turret, and said that there were some interesting remains in the windows of the places where the rods on which the leathern curtains were hung to keep out the wind, rain, and arrows of the enemy, when it was inhabited by its Norman proprietors. Many of these had been destroyed by the masons of Leicester who had excavated the south-west angle, near where they then stood, for the purpose evidently of forming a staircase. The original entrance he presumed to be also on this side, but it had been so materially altered that it was difficult to say decisively. In 1274 the Castle seemed to have been garrisoned by a strong force by Henry II., when his son was in rebellion against him, and the siege lasted seventy-seven days. Mr. Parker then gave a summary of the well-known points of its history mentioned in "Dugdale." A good idea of the price of provisions at that time was given by the official record of the garrison stores; 100 quarters of wheat, 8*l.* 8*s.* 2*d.*; 20 quarters of barley, 1*l.* 13*s.* 4*d.*; 100 hogs, 7*l.* 10*s.*; 40 cows, salted, 4*l.*; 120 cheeses, 2*l.*; 25 quarters of salt, 1*l.* 10*s.* The accounts rendered by the sheriffs contain valuable information illustrative of mediæval times. Money was paid in lieu of serving as the feudal guard of the castle, and those who took refuge within its prodigious walls from the turbulent storms without were required to pay for "bed and board." There are items of expenditure for improving the fortifications, repairing the banks of the lake, and the conveyance of five tuns of wine brought from Southampton. It is a curious circumstance that two of the governors of the castle, who succeeded each other in the reign of Henry III., were named John Russell and Robert Low, and Mr. Parker made a humorous allusion to the financial administration of the latter. He also remarked on the singularity of 100*s.* being granted for the erection of a "geola," or gaol, for the safe custody of the prisoners.

Mr. J. H. Parker pointed out that the thick basements of solid masonry were to resist the battering rams which might be brought against it. It was remarked that the Garden Entrance, near to which they stood, was the place where Sir Walter Scott placed the Earl of Leycester and his friends whilst the imaginary interview took place between Amy Robsart and good Queen Bess.

The next point visited was the Water Tower in the eastern wall, near to which the remains of a chapel have been discovered. Here Mr. James Parker, standing on the buttress of the ancient chapel, alluded to a remark which had been made by the Rev. Mr. Hartshorn, when the Archaeological Society visited the spot, that the large sum of money, 1100*l.*, which had been expended in King John's time, had been expended on the Keep. This he did not think was correct, for he believed they saw before them the building which had been then erected, and which cost the sum of money mentioned. He then proceeded to show that this money was employed to erect a wardrobe and a King's Chamber here, and, in his opinion, the wardrobe and King's Chamber were then before them.

This statement was of course open to doubt, and Mr. Knowles suggested that it was the Queen's Chamber, not the King's.

Mr. J. Parker rejoined that he had reasons for his opinion, for they found in the 19th of Henry III. the Sheriff accounted for 6*l.* 16*s.* 4*d.* for "a fair and beautiful boat" to lie near the door of the King's great Chamber, and there was no such door opening on to the lake at Lunn's Tower. He believed that the King's Chamber was what they knew as the Water Tower.

Mr. Knowles joined issue on this point, and both parties appeared to forget that it was hardly likely that the fair boat would be left on the moat, and that there was a door, and the remains of a beautiful Chamber on the south side of the Castle adjoining the upper lake.

Respecting the Chapel, Mr. Parker pointed out that in

1241 they had records of more buildings, when the Chapel was ceiled with wainscoting and otherwise handsomely adorned. He thought there was no doubt but that they were standing on the very site of the Chapel.

Mr. Knowles, however, pointed out that the date of the Chapel was 1335, and it was the third, or, as he termed it, the Queen's Chapel.

In answer to Mr. Parker, Mr. Knowles stated that the site of the second Chapel had not yet been discovered.

The presence of some of the old round stones belonging to the military engines of Simon de Montfort, gave a piquant flavour to the description of the famous siege of Kenilworth, and the well-known "ban" or dictum of Kenilworth. He also observed that a peculiar fatality appeared to befall the early possessors of the place, as they very often rebelled against their royal benefactors.

The bestowment of the Castle on Edmund, Earl of Leicester, in 1286, was next noticed, and complimentary mention made of the chivalry of the 13th century, when the one hundred gallant knights assembled at the Castle for their grand passage of arms, called "The Round Table," of which Roger Mortimer, Earl of March, was the leader. Edmund of Lancaster, who was the next possessor, with the ill-luck of its former rulers, rebelled against his cousin, Edward II., and was beheaded at Pontefract in 1322. Edward II., who had intended to make the Castle his residence, found in it a prison, shortly before his brutal murder at Berkeley. Edward III. restored the Castle to the Earl of Lancaster, whose granddaughter married John of Gaunt, afterwards Duke of Lancaster, who built Lancaster's Buildings.

The party now proceeded to Lunn's Tower, which is now in process of repair. The peculiar arrangement of the windows and means of defence were briefly pointed out. The centre of the great banquetting hall was the next point of attraction, where Mr. James Parker observed that they had reason to believe that the portion of the Castle on which they stood, and which was known as Lancaster's building, was erected in the 14th century. They knew that in 1392 a brief was sent to John Deyncourt to collect masons and labourers, wood and stone, for the building there, and no doubt the hall in which they stood dated from that period. The peculiarity and beauty of the hall were pointed out, and the party visited the remains of the windows near the *plaisance*, where some rare tracery on the plaster is preserved under glass, and which was believed to be unique. The outer wall of the Castle, built by Henry III., was examined as they went along, and in front of Leicester's buildings Mr. J. Parker pointed out the features of the Elizabethan period when the Castle was altered by Robert Dudley, Earl of Leicester. He also remarked that Robert Dudley had some claim to the possession of the Castle, because a letter had recently been found addressed by Sir John Dudley to Cromwell, asking for it, and it is believed that in consequence of this it was bestowed by Elizabeth on Robert Dudley. On the 9th of July, 1563, he received the grant, and in 1564 he was created Earl of Leicester; in 1571 he erected two towers, one at the head of the pool, known as the gallery tower, and the other was now known as Mortimer's tower. He also built the gatehouse, still standing, and though preserving the old entrance, he made a new one on the opposite side, and thus as it were turned the entrance of the Castle round. He then mentioned the entertainment that was given by Robert, Earl of Leicester, to Queen Elizabeth, and which has been described by Laneham. One of the gentlemen present asked where the tilting took place. Mr. J. Parker said that he understood it was in the quadrangle or the base court. Mr. Tom Burgess thought it was not so, but that probably it took place on what is now known as the tilt yard; as there were drawings in existence and many details to show that was the spot. Mr. Knowles said he believed it was made into a tilt yard by Leicester, but he was of opinion there was a terrace beneath it, made also by Leicester. The question as to there having been a

separate moat in the Norman time was also mentioned. Mr. Knowles considered that traces could be found of the Norman moat on the site of the present garden, and also that the hollow which was now in front of Leicester's buildings was the remains of the moat, or, in Mr. Parker's words, Leicester's building from across to the old moat was filled up on either side for a garden. In front of the quadrangle, in answer to some questions respecting the later owners of the Castle, Mr. Tom Burgess explained that the Castle after Leicester's death passed into the hands of Sir Robert Dudley, and from him was taken by James I. for the use of Henry, Prince of Wales. In Henry's time a complete inventory was taken of the goods, chattels, furniture, pictures, and other appurtenances of the Castle, and this document was still preserved, giving an idea of the grandeur and beauty of the appointments. Henry had decided to pay a proportion of the valuation to Sir Robert Dudley, but he died before the agreement could be carried out. It then remained in possession of the Crown, leased to the Careys, until the Civil Wars, when it was garrisoned by the king, but after hostilities had broken out, Charles removed his garrison, finding it placed between the hostile forces at Coventry and Warwick, and left it in the hands of the Parliamentarians.

In reply to some further questions, Mr. Burgess pointed out that the first blood shed in the Civil Wars was in the immediate neighbourhood, and gave a sketch of the events from the siege of Caldecott Hall to the Battle of Edgehill. He then pointed out that the castle and grounds were granted to several officers of Cromwell's army, who demolished the castle, drained the pool, and converted the gate-house into a residence.

The party then adjourned to the gate-house, where they were courteously received by Mr. F. Robbins, and inspected several relics of the past grandeur of the Castle preserved there, amongst which is the very fine alabaster chimney-piece which had been removed from the Privy Chamber, a variety of carvings and keys. Some curious relics found in the recent excavation of the Castle were also shown, together with a model of a mangonel made by Mr. Knowles, which was used at the siege of Kenilworth in the reign of Henry III. This and some ancient wainscoting excited a great deal of attention, and Mr. Knowles kindly distributed amongst the visitors impressions of a seal which had been found in the ruins of the Castle.

The party then left the Castle by the gateway, and proceeded to the Church, where the Rev. W. F. Bickmore, vicar of the parish, exhibited the beautiful communion plate. The visitors next inspected the beautiful Norman doorway at the west side of the Church, and other peculiar and salient features of the edifice, and also the ancient gateway of the Abbey.

It being nearly seven o'clock, they then left on their return journey, taking with them many pleasant memories of their afternoon in Kenilworth.

CHESTER ARCHÆOLOGICAL SOCIETY.

THE Rev. Canon Kingsley will deliver a lecture before the members of this Society, on a day not yet definitely fixed, but certainly during his present term of residence.

The subject of the lecture—"Primæval Man"—is one of the utmost interest both ethnologically and historically, and in the hands of the worthy Canon is certain of a vigorous and faithful exposition.

ARCHÆOLOGICAL INSTITUTE OF GREAT BRITAIN.

THE preliminary arrangements have been made for the Congress of this Society to be held this year, towards the latter end of July, at Cardiff.

The Marquis of Bute will be president; the Duke of Bedford, Lord Tredegar, the Earl of Cawdor, Mr. C. R. Mansel Talbot, M.P., and the Bishop of Llandaff, the local patrons,

LINCOLN DIOCESAN ARCHITECTURAL SOCIETY.

On Thursday, June 22nd, in the parish church, a description of the fabric will be given by the Archdeacon of Stow.

The Society's members and friends will then start from the market-place, visiting Newark, Kelham Hall, Kelham Church, Averham, Upton, Hockerton, Caunton, Norwell, Sutton-on-Trent, Carlton, Cromwell, North Muskham, Holme, South Muskham. Each church will be described by the Archdeacon of Stow.

In the evening, among other proceedings, a paper on "Painted Glass," by the Rev. H. Usher, will be read.

On the following day the company will proceed to the Castle, which will be described by Archdeacon Trollope.

The following places will then be visited:—Newark Castle, Hawton Church, Balderton, Claypole, Stubton, Fenton, Broughton, Beckingham Church, Beckingham Manor, Barnby, Coddington.

In the evening a paper will be read on "Easter Sepulchres," by Mr. H. H. Bloxham.

PALESTINE EXPLORATION FUND.

THE quarterly statement of the Palestine Exploration Fund, issued on Thursday, contains Captain Warren's paper on Philistia; Mr. Palmer's concluding paper will be issued in the next number. An expedition of great interest is contemplated by Reschid Pasha, Governor of Damascus, for this summer. It will cross the desert, hitherto unvisited by Europeans, between Damascus and Petra, to the east of Moab. Mr. Tyrwhitt Drake will, if possible, accompany it on behalf of the Palestine Exploration Fund.

PROVINCIAL.

RESTORATION OF BOULTON CHURCH, DERBY.

THIS ancient church has undergone thorough restoration. The roof and walls had long been dilapidated, and the interior was a bad specimen of what was miscalled church restoration. It was, therefore, decided to renovate and restore the venerable fabric, and the work has been brought to a successful issue.

In the eleventh century there was a Norman church at Boulton (probably a simple nave and chancel of very small proportions,) as the south doorway, part of the chancel arch, and a small window in the north wall of the chancel of this date still remained in 1870. The chancel arch was so exceedingly narrow that it was determined to remove it, and insert an arch of more suitable proportion. The old Norman remains have, however, been preserved, and re-used as a doorway in the north side of the chancel. The old Norman south doorway, and the window above-mentioned, have also been preserved.

Early in the fifteenth century considerable alterations were made to the old church, and the south porch was erected. In more modern times the old roofs were destroyed, and plastered ceilings substituted. An entirely new and handsome open timbered roof has been placed over the nave. The porch, and the south wall of the nave, and the north wall of the chancel, have all been rebuilt, all architectural features being carefully refixed in their original positions. An entirely new north aisle having an arcade of three arches opening from the nave, has been added, and a vestry built on the north side of the chancel. A new chancel arch, moulded and supported on carved corbels and small shafts, all in keeping with the new work of the aisle, has been inserted, and a new window has been put in the west wall of the nave, improving both the internal and external appearance of the church. The pulpit is made out of some slabs of alabaster which were found in the church, and, though plain, is effective. The chancel is laid with Minton's tiles, and a few old encaustic tiles which were discovered during

the progress of the works have been laid at the foot of the pulpit steps. The aisles are paved with York stone with an ornamental tile border. Only those who knew the church in former days can fully appreciate the improvement effected by the restoration executed under the direction of William Smith, Esq., architect, of John Street, Adelphi, London.

To the zeal of the Rev. E. Poole, and the members of the building committee, the public are indebted for the accomplishment of this good work.

ST. ALKMUND'S WELL-DRESSING.

THE ancient and historical well of St. Alkmund's, was, on Whit-Tuesday, honoured with unusual attentions. For some time past it has been in contemplation to commemorate the existence of this bountiful source of "God's great gift to man," by a "well dressing." For this purpose many of the leading inhabitants of the neighbourhood contributed both money and labour, and the culmination of their efforts was arrived at on Whit-Tuesday, when, after a brief but interesting inaugural ceremony, conducted by the Rev. W. Beresford, curate of St. Alkmund's, the adorned well was thrown open to the public. Its comparative smallness prevented any very extensive or elaborate display: but the most was made of existing space, and the well presented a pleasing appearance, reflecting credit on those who carried out this novel undertaking. The well was arched over with evergreens, so as to present the appearance of a "fairy bower." Ferns and flowers were also brought into requisition, and in the middle of a group of the latter, fully exposed to view, and surrounded by a ground-work of evergreens and moss textually inlaid with flowers, was an artificial grotto of spar, from which issued the gushing stream of water, which, by its delicious coolness, and the medicinal properties it is supposed to possess, has rendered the well locally famous. Aided by a liberal private subscription, about 200 of the female population of the neighbourhood were regaled with tea on the grounds of Mr. G. Holme, manufacturer. After tea there was dancing, and at dusk the well was illuminated with a number of Chinese lanterns.

The historical references to St. Alkmund's Well are few and unsatisfactory. Woolley's MS. account of Derby, written in 1712, describes it as a "Curious spring called St. Alkmund's Well, a little way out of the town, formerly esteemed a kind of holy well;" and John Edwards, alluding to the custom of decorating wells with flowers, and attending them with religious services or festive rejoicings on Holy Thursday, mentions this spring as one of those committed to the patronage of a saint, and treated with reverence on account of the purity of its waters. The antiquity of the spring as a holy well is amply attested by tradition. St. Alkmund, a younger son of Alured, King of Northumbria, who was slain in the battle of Kemsford, was chosen, about A.D. 915, as the patron saint of the Collegiate Church, which Ethelfleda, daughter of King Alfred, founded at Shrewsbury. The traditional history of Derbyshire assigns a prominent place to King Alfred as one of the worthies of the county, and there is little doubt that this town was highly esteemed during his period as a centre of religion and learning. At all events the body of St. Alkmund was translated from Shropshire to Derby, where it was enshrined, and the old parish church built over it in Saxon times. When this church was pulled down in 1844 the remains of the shrine were discovered in the chancel, in the shape of a solid coffin-shaped stone, sculptured with arches in a rude Saxon fashion. March the 19th was the date of his festival.

ARCHÆOLOGICAL DISCOVERIES AT FINKLEY.—Dr. J. Stevens, of St. Mary Bourne, Hants, a member of the Newbury Field Club, has just discovered a Roman villa at Finkley, Sir C. Hoare's site of Vindomis. It is situated 400 yards west of the Portway. There are, he says, at least three others close by.

FOREIGN.

THE RUINS IN PARIS.—There is already a discussion as to what to do with the ruins—which shall be rebuilt, which pulled down, and which left standing? One proposal, which finds favour, is to pull down all that remains of the Tuileries, and so open up the Louvre to the Champs Elysées without a break in the vista, laying out the space now occupied by the Palace in a public garden. The universal sentiment is to enclose the Hôtel de Ville in a square, and let it stand a magnificent ruin and illustration of the manner in which the most advanced philosophic and philanthropic ideas of the present age find their highest expression and ultimate development. The Ministère des Finances and most of the buildings on the Quai d'Orsay will probably have to be rebuilt, and will afford employment for some time to large numbers of workmen belonging to the International, who can always burn them down when they are again in need of work.

M. THIERS' WORKS OF ART.—The *Sicde* gives full particulars of the disposition of M. Thiers' works of art, with respect to the fate of which so much anxiety has been expressed. It appears that previous to the demolition of the mansion the whole of its portable contents were carried to the furniture warehouse on the Quai d'Orsay and there classified. The furniture, the portfolios of drawings and engravings, including the water-colour copies of the frescoes in the Vatican, remained in the warehouse and have suffered no other injury than that consequent upon the shelling which followed the explosion in the Champ de Mars. The private papers, correspondence, manuscripts, &c., which filled several large hampers, were sent to the Hôtel de Ville. The gold and silver articles, it is briefly and emphatically stated, *ne parurent point*. The rare bronzes, statuettes, and bas-reliefs were at first sent to the Louvre, but, in the absence of authorities to receive them, they were deposited in the Salon de Stuc, at the Tuileries, a room situated between the Pavillon de Medicis and the Pavillon de Flores. The *Sicde* hopes the falling in of the ceiling of the upper storey may in some degree have protected them.

A CELLINI CROSS.—All Naples has been talking recently of the good fortune of a Russian gentleman, M. de S., an attaché of the Legation at Florence, who in his antiquarian researches has purchased a crucifix of great beauty and value, from its being a work of the celebrated Benvenuto Cellini. The cross, which is of the Byzantine style, is of solid silver, inlaid with gold, and bears the initials of the maker, with the date, 1599, towards the close of the career of Cellini, and when his fame was at its highest. The gentleman in question, who is an antiquarian, hearing of the existence of this crucifix in a village church, in the province of Teramo, went to see it, and, struck with its beauty, offered 4000 francs for it. This sum was refused, and whilst the negotiations for the purchase were pending, the inhabitants made a demonstration hostile to M. de S. The crucifix was eventually purchased for 4500 francs, and on reaching Naples it was shown to Senator Fiorelli, of the *Museo Nazionale*, who pronounced it to be worth 100,000 francs. It was afterwards shown to a lady belonging to one of the Imperial families of Europe, who expressed a wish to purchase it for more than double the amount it was valued at by the Director of the Museum; and M. de S. has taken it with him to Russia to consign it to its future owner.

An exceedingly interesting discovery has been made near Holler in the Grand-Duchy of Luxemburg. A workman of that place lately found no less than 378 Roman coins, besides several urns, not far from the village and only a few feet below the surface of the soil. The coins belong to the reigns of Vespasian, Domitian, Nerva, Trajan, Adrian, Antoninus, Aurelius, Commodus, Divus Verus, Diocletian, Diva Faustina, Crispina Augusta, &c. The present possessor of this treasure, Pastor Bernard of Wilwerdingen,

intends, we understand, to dispose of the greater part of it at a fair price.

WE have received the Anniversary Address of Dr. Julius Haast, F.R.S., Director of the Canterbury Museum, to the Members of the Philosophical Institute of Canterbury, New Zealand. It is mainly devoted to "Moas and Moa-Hunters." The whole question of the various discoveries which have been made of the bones of these extinct gigantic birds, of the geological position of the Moa bones, and of the age in which they lived, is fully embraced. The traditions of the Maoris are examined, and the evidences afforded by the discovery of flint chips and stone weapons, in connexion with the "ovens of the Moa hunters," are carefully set forth. The address is, indeed, a valuable contribution to this branch of scientific inquiry.—*Athenæum*.

A NEW museum was founded a short time ago in Florence for the reception of Etruscan Antiquities, which until quite lately were not collected in any proper building specially devoted to the purpose, but were stowed away in nooks and passages of the Uffizii, where they were concealed from the public, rather than exposed to the public view. Many of the most precious Etruscan antiquities were being constantly carried out of the country until the Marchese Carlo Strozzi and Signor Gamurrini, with the assistance of the Marchese Gian Carlo Conestabile, determined to provide a proper receptacle for them. The new museum which has been added to the Egyptian museum was inaugurated in March, in the presence of the Minister of Public Instruction, Cesare Correnti, and speeches were delivered by Professor Gennarelli and Signor Gamurrini, who was elected Keeper of the Etruscan Antiquities.

REPORTS OF SALES.

SALE OF VALUABLE PICTURES.—Eighteen capital ancient and modern pictures, the property of a nobleman; 20 important pictures, the property of the Marquis du Lau; 18 pictures, the property of Mr. C. Warner Lewis, of the Inner Temple, deceased, and numerous other capital works, were disposed of on the 3rd instant, at Messrs. Christie, Manson, and Woods, in King Street, St. James's. The following were the leading examples:—

Lot 15. *Rubens*.—Portrait of the artist, in a black dress and ruff, date, 1619, 255 guineas (Rutley), the property of Mr. Charles Warner Lewis, and sold by order of the executors.

The following fine works were the property of a nobleman:—

30. *J. B. Greuze*.—A Girl seated at a table, on which are a pen and book, 400 guineas (Lytelton).

31. *Pannini*.—The Piazza Navone at Rome during a fête given by the Cardinal de Polignac on the birth of the Dauphin, Nov. 30, 1729, engraved, 610 guineas (Doyle).

32. *Decamps*.—Les Singes Cuisiniers, the celebrated work from the Demidoff and Redron collections, 950 guineas (Ellis).

33. Same Artist.—La Marchande d'Oranges, from the Redron collection, 530 guineas (Agnew).

The Marquis Da Lau's collection:—

Van Dyck.—Portrait of Thomas Killigrew, poet, page to Charles I., in a cuirass, with crimson and gold scarf and open sleeves, his right hand resting on the head of a large dog, a bracelet on his left wrist. This costume is found, with the same colours and all its details, in the portrait of the young Lord Pembroke, painted by Van Dyck and engraved by Combard. The name "Killigrew" appears on the collar of the dog, 285 guineas (Graves).

54. *Cuyp*.—A sunny landscape, with a black and white cow standing, and two red cows lying down, a peasant woman and a girl seated under a tree on the left, a herdsman standing behind the black cow, a bull in the distance, ruins in the centre, a river opening to the horizon on the right;

engraved in the catalogue of the Duval Gallery of Geneva, 710 guineas (Durand Ruel).

55. *G. Terburg*.—La Limonade, the celebrated work engraved in the Choiseul Gallery, 435 guineas (Ellis).

60. *Sir Joshua Reynolds, P.R.A.*—A Girl reading "Clarissa." This picture was exhibited by Sir Joshua in 1771, and is the portrait of his favourite niece, Miss Theophila Palmer (afterwards Mrs. Gwatkin), absorbed in "Clarissa." In the "Life and Times of Sir Joshua Reynolds," by C. R. Leslie, R.A., and Tom Taylor, it is remarked of this portrait that it was "deservedly marked by Walpole as 'charming,'" 750 guineas (Agnew).

75. *Paul Potter*.—A View near a Farm, with a woman milking a cow, a herdsman at her side, another cow standing in front, and one lying down under a tree, a horse and three sheep on the left, a pool of water in front; signed and dated 1651. Exhibited at the British Institution, 1840-2. Purchased by Mr. Ralph Willett in Holland in 1796, from the family for whom it was painted, cabinet size, 330 guineas (Allen).

The whole realised 9185*l*.

BIBLIOTHECA CORNEIANA.

The valuable library formed by the late Bolton Corney, M.R.S.L., author of *Disraeli's Curiosities of Literature Illustrated*, and other works particularly rich in early voyages and travels, and works relating to America, including many volumes of the utmost degree of rarity, have been disposed of by Messrs. Sotheby, Wilkinson, and Hodge, at their rooms, in Wellington-street. The sale commenced on Wednesday, the 31st ult., and continued throughout the week. Among the rarities disposed of were the following:—

Lot 218. *Basanien, Histoire Notable de la Floride*. Very rare, fine copy, ruled with red lines, tree-marbled, calf gilt, Paris, 1586, 4to, 36*l*. (Smith).

710. *Champlain (Samuel, Sieur de)*.—Voyages et Descouvertes faites en la Nouvelle France, depuis l'année 1615 jusques à la fin de l'année 1618, curious plates, extremely rare, 4to, Paris, 1627, not in the Grenville Library, 35*l*. 10*s*. (Quaritch).

813. *Columbus (Christophorus)*.—*Epistola Christofori Colom.*, cui etas nostra multum debet, de Insulis Indie supra Gangem nuper inventis. Ad quas perquirendas octavo antea mense auspiciis et ere invictissimorum Fernandi et Helisabet Hispaniarum Regum missus fuerat, ad magnificum, dominum Gabrielem Sanchis eorundem serenissimorum Regum Tesaurarium missa; quam nobilis ac litteratus vir Leander de Cosco ab Hispano idiomate in latinum convertit tertio Kalendis Maii M.CCCC.XCIII. Pontificatus Alexandro, Sexti Anno primo. Of excessive rarity, fine copy, 4to, *sine ullâ nota* (1493). This celebrated letter of Columbus is the first printed document known relative to America. The edition consists of four leaves, with 33 lines in a full page, 116*l*. (Quaritch).

1,191. *Enciso (Martin Fernandez De)*.—*Suma de Geographico que Trata de Todas las Paridas y Provincias del Mundo*. Folio, black letter, first edition, of extreme rarity, fine copy, blue morocco, by Lewis Sevilla, por Jacobo Cromberger, 1519. The first book printed in Spanish relating to America, 66*l*. (Quaritch).

1,204. *Erondelle (Pierre)*.—*Nova Francia*, or the description of that part of New France which is one Continent with Virginia. Described in the three Voyages and Plantation made by M. de Monts, M. du Pont-Gravé, and M. de Pontreincourt, in the countries called by the French La Cadie, lying to the south-west of Cape Breton. Translated out of French into English by P.E., with the extremely rare folded map, 4to, Russia. Londini, impensis Georgii Bishop, 1609, 37*l*. (Ellis).

1,205. *Escobar (Juan de)*.—*Romancero e Historia del Muy Valeroso Cavallero el Cid Ruy Diaz de Bovar*, en language antiguo. First edition, 4to, of extreme rarity, fine

copy, morocco, by Mackenzie. Alcala, 1612. Not in the Grenville Library, 45*l*. (Ellis).

1,342. *Frobisher (Martin)*.—*A True Discourse of the (three) late Voyages of Discoverie*, for the finding of a passage to Cathaye, by the north-west, under the conduct of Martin Frobisher, Generall (written by George Beste). 4to, black letter, of excessive rarity, with both the folded woodcut maps, fine copy, blue morocco, by Hering. H. Bynnyman, 1578, 67*l*. (Quaritch).

1,412. *Gilbert (Sir Humfrey)*.—*Discourse of a Discoverie for a New Passage to Cataia*, 4to, black letter, with map, of the most excessive rarity, morocco, by Smith. Henry Middleton for Richarde Jhones.

1,576. Prefixed is an epistle to the reader, by George Gascoigne, and a prophetic sonnet by the same, 46*l*. (Smith).

1,457. *Goldsmith (O.)*—*Vidæ Scacchiæ Ludus*, or Game of Chess, in English verse. A very excellent translation, not published, 679 lines in the autograph of Oliver Goldsmith, the poet, with portrait on India paper inserted, and specimens of the writing of Mrs. Eliz. Cromwell, daughter of the Protector, Richard Cromwell. 4to, green morocco, with joints, 38*l*. (Ellis).

The fifth, sixth, and seventh days' sale of this valuable library included the following rare works.

Lot 1,790. *James (Thomas)*.—*Strange and Dangerous Voyage in his Intended Discovery of the North-West Passage into the South Sea*, original edition, 4to, with the excessively rare map, containing in the corner a portrait of the navigator, fine copy, red morocco, by Smith, 1633, 33*l*. 10*s*. (Quaritch).

1,948. *Lescarbot (Marc)*.—*Histoire de la Nouvelle France*, contenant les navigations, découvertes, et habitations faites par les François en Indes Occidentales et Nouvelle France (avec les Muses de la Nouvelle France), first edition, 4to, extremely rare, with the engraving of the port of Ganabra and folded map of Nova Francia, fine copy, vellum, Paris, 1609, 27*l*. 10*s*. (Quaritch).

2,140. *Martyris Anglerii (Pietri)*.—*Opus Epistolarum nunc primum et natum et mediocri cura excusum*, the title printed within a beautiful woodcut border, in various compartments, folio, very rare, fine copy, old calf, gilt. Compluti. M. D'Eyuiau, 1530, 49*l*. (James).

2,141-2. *Martyris Anglerii de Orbe Novo Decades VIII.* annotationibus illustratæ labore et industria Richardi Hakluyti, with the very rare map mentioned by Hakluyt in his dedicatory epistle to Sir Walter Raleigh, fine old copy, calf gilt, Paris, 1587. *Martyr of Auleria*. *Decades of the Newe Worlde*, or *West India*, containing the navigations and conquestes of the Spanyardes, translated into English by Rycharde Eden, rare, black letter, 4to, W. Powell, 1555, 28*l*. (Quaritch).

2,164. *Maximiliani Transylvani Caesaris a Secretis Epistola*, de admirabili et Novissima Hispanorum in Orientem navigatione, qua varie, et nulli prius accessa Regiones invente sunt, cum ipsis etiam Moluccis insulis beatissimis, optimo Aromatum genere refertis, first edition, 4to, of extreme rarity, the title printed within a woodcut border. Rome in ædibus F. Minitii Calvé, anno 1523, 32*l*. 10*s*. (Quaritch).

2,165. *Maximiliani Transylvani de Moluccis Insulis*; itemque aliis pluribus mirandis, quæ Novissima Castellannorum Navigatio Caroli V., auspicio suscepta, nuper invenit, Epistola, second edition, of extreme rarity, the title printed within a woodcut border of nude figures dancing, fine copy. Coloniae in ædibus Eucharri Cerve corni, Anno Virginici Partus. MDXXXIII. This is the celebrated voyage of Magellan, from whom the Straits so-called derived their name, 22*l*. (James).

2,172. *Medina (Pedro D. E.)* *Arte de Navegar Vista y approuada en la casa de la Contractacion de las Indias povel piloto*, Mayor y Cosmographos de su Magestad, folio, black letter, with curious figures, original edition, very rare, fine copy, old calf. Valladolid, F. Fernandez de Cordova, 1545, 17*l*. 15*s*. (Quaritch).

2,264. Montemayor (Jorge De).—Siete Libros de la Diana, agora Nuevamente Annadido de Ciertas obras del Mismo autor, an edition of extreme rarity, probably second, fine copy, morocco extra, with joints. Barcelona en casa de Jayme Cortez, 1561, 24l. 10s. (Boone).

2,400. Nunez, Alvar.—La Relacion y Comentarios Del Gobernador Alvar Nunez, Cabeça De Vaca, de la acaescido en las dos jornadas que brizo a las Indias, black letter, 4to, woodcut of arms on the title page, original edition, of the greatest rarity, fine copy, from the library of the Marques d'Astorga. Valladolid, 1555, 39l. 10s. (James).

2,438. Oviedo (Gonçalo Hernandez De).—Hystoria General De las Indias agora nuevamente impressa corregida y emendada. Y con la conquista del Peru, black letter, folio, second edition, with woodcuts, fine copy, very rare. Salamanca, Juan de Junta, 1547, 29l. 10s. (Quaritch).

2,519. Percy Society's Publications.—Early English poetry, ballads, and popular literature of the middle ages, edited from original MS. and scarce works, from the commencement in 1846 to its dissolution in 1852, 15 vols, calf, 20l. 15s. (Asher).

CORRESPONDENCE.

[The Editor will be glad to receive Correspondence on Archaeological matters, and information of discoveries of antiquities, accompanied with drawings of objects, when of sufficient interest, for illustration.]

To the Editor of "THE ANTIQUARIAN."

SIR,—Under the heading of "Ancient Discoveries at Waltham Abbey," Mr. Winters queries the "stake interment." His words run thus:—"One of the skeletons was entire, having three stakes driven through it in the form of a triangle, near which was a small dagger."

The presumption is that this was the interment of a suicide, and that the dagger was the instrument of his self-murder, placed there to note the incident. Our humane juries in the present day yield readily to a coroner's verdict of "unsound mind," to relieve the survivors from the mortification of an unconsecrated funeral, pursuant to the old practice of piercing the body of suicides with stakes, at a cross road.

In the case above described at Waltham Abbey, it may be assumed that some friends of the deceased, having possessed themselves of the body, have subsequently interred it; and, it is still a question whether this portion of the Abbey grounds was really within the consecrated precincts.

I am, Sir, yours, &c.,

June 7, 1871.

A. H.

ANSWERS TO CORRESPONDENTS.

J. C. (Canterbury).—The generally received derivation of the term Gavelkind is from the Saxon *Gavel* (rent); Gavelkind, that is, land of such a kind as to yield rent. A very elaborate examination of the several proposed derivations are given in the first chapter of Robinson's "Treatise on Gavelkind." The chief distinguishing properties of this tenure are—That upon the death of the owner without a will the land descends to all the sons in equal shares, and the issue of a deceased son, whether male or female, inherit his part; in default of sons, the land descends in equal shares to the daughters; in default of lineal heirs, the land goes to the brothers of the last holder; and in default of brothers, to their respective issue.

C. DOYNE.—Bishopsgate was sold by the Commissioners of the City Lands, on Wednesday, December 10th, 1760, for immediate demolition. The house at the corner of Camomile Street has a mitre in the front, with inscription, to mark the site on which it stood.

J. CHECKETTS (Hammersmith).—The first Church in England. Several places have claimed the honour of having afforded a site for the first Church erected in England, but none with more reason than the old Abbey Town of Glastonbury in Somersetshire. Tradition has it that a Church was built here as early as A.D. 64.

MISCELLANEA.

STRAWBERRIES.—Nature's carpet is fresh laid, and nothing can be more grateful than to press its beautiful surface in search of strawberries, once gathered in Ely Place, Holborn. See Shakespeare's Richard III., Act 3, Scene 4, when Glo'ster thus addresses the Bishop of Ely:—

"My Lord of Ely, when I was last in Holborn,
I saw good strawberries in your garden there;
I do beseech you send for some of them."

BUCKLES AND SHOE-TIES.—Hans Holbein was painter to Henry VIII., and Inigo Jones had a book of drawings by this master, from which it appears he did not think it beneath him to make designs for "clasps for shoes." Bolsover, in Derbyshire, was noted for its manufacture of steel buckles, which, from the 14th century, remained fashionable till about the period of the French Revolution. Buckles were of value and variety, according to the ability of their wearers, from a garniture of diamonds to silver, copper, and common iron case-hardened. Bows and rosettes over the ties are coming in use as they were formerly, an allusion to which, poetical readers will probably recollect in the story of the redoubtable knight and lover, Hudibras, who approached the capricious widow in these obsequious terms:—

"Madam, I do, as is my duty,
Honour the shadow of your shoe-tie."

These shoe roses succeeded the buckles in Queen Mary's reign; in Charles I. time they had become umbrageous, as appears from Vandyke's portrait of that monarch. Gray introduces Sir Christopher Hatton dancing before Queen Elizabeth, and declares that—

"His bushy beard and shoe-strings green,
His high crowned hat, and satin doublet,
Moved the stout heart of England's Queen,
Though Pope and Spaniard could not trouble it."

To which of these four sumptuous attributes of the dancing exterior this momentum is mainly to be attributed does not appear. It is likely enough to have been the green shoe-strings. For it appears from an admonition in the *Tattler* to a certain great shoemaker at the West-end, who had had the temerity to expose in his shop window shoes and slippers with "green lace and blue heels," that there is a very potent and dangerous charm in this rural colour when so worn.

THE RECEIPT TAX, which was at first very obnoxious, was introduced in the time of the famous coalition ministry (that of Lord North and Mr. Fox), and the following epigram was on that occasion handed about:—

"Premier," says Fox, "let's have a Tax
That shall not fall on me."
'Right,' says Lord North, 'we'll tax receipts,
For these you never see.'"

Dr. Gregory's Letters, 1808, p. 131.

In Great Tower Street (No. 43), near Water Lane, is the house formerly belonging to Alderman Beckford; it is in good preservation, and is now let out as offices.

M. DE SAULCY, whose wife was a lady-in-waiting of the ex-Empress of the French, is preparing a "Numismatique de la Terre Sainte" and a History of the Maccabees, which ought to be presented to the British public.

THE GOBELINS.—The *Journal Official* assures the public that the destruction at the Gobelins has not been so extensive as had been apprehended. Only a small portion of the buildings has been burnt, and work has already been resumed in the parts which have been spared. Even in those rooms which have been destroyed not all the works of art have been lost, and especially the "Dead Christ" after Philippe de Champagne, and the portrait of Louis XIV., after Rigault, have been saved. The collection of ancient patterns has also been preserved.

THE BURLINGTON FINE ARTS CLUB is making arrangements to have an exhibition of early examples of English water-colour drawings.

DISCOVERY OF ROMAN REMAINS AT LINCOLN.—The workmen engaged in digging for the foundation of the new church of St. Martin, Lincoln, have come upon several relics of antiquity, which are believed to be Roman. At a depth of about five feet beneath the surface was found a three-quarter length stone effigy of a lady with a hare in her hand; it is in excellent preservation, and, we understand, will be photographed. The workmen also found enclosed in a roughly made stone case, about eight or nine inches square, a human skull.

THE BRITISH ARCHÆOLOGICAL ASSOCIATION will hold its congress this year at Weymouth, under the presidency of Sir W. C. Medlicott, Bart., D.C.L.

LEADENHALL.—SIR SIMON EYRE.—The annals of commerce present few instances of successful speculation more memorable than is exhibited in the life of Sir Simon Eyre. He was originally a leather worker in Leadenhall Street, and hearing that a vessel laden with leather from Tripoli was wrecked on the coast of Cornwall, conceived that he might make great advantages from purchasing it. He accordingly collected as much money as his confined means would permit, and departed from London on foot to Penzance, where he bought the leather, returned to London, commenced dealer in that article, and soon amassed a fortune sufficient to build Leadenhall, and fill the office of Lord Mayor.

M. DE SAULCY, who resides with the ex-Imperial family at Chiselhurst (Madame de Saulecy being one of the ladies-in-waiting to the Empress), is about to dispose of his valuable collection of Gallic remains to the British Museum. The medals and coins of the Gallic period were collected at Alesia, while aiding the Emperor in the composition of his "Life of Cæsar." Some of them are unique.

PROCLAMATION OF HENRY VIII.—Among the presents recently made to the library of the British Museum is a black-letter broadside, containing a proclamation of Henry VIII. with reference to prohibited books. This proclamation was issued in June, 1530, and is entitled "A proclamation made and divysed by the Kyngis hignes, with the advise of his honorable counsaile, for dampning of erroneous bokes and heresies, and prohibitinge the havinge of holy scripture translated into the vulgar tonges of englishe, frenche, or duche, in suche manner as within this proclamation is expressed." Among the books prohibited are, "the boke called the Wicked Mammona, the boke named the Obedience of a Christen man, the Supplication of beggars, and the boke called the Revelation of Antichrist, the Summary of Scripture, and divers other bokes made in the englishe tonge, and imprinted beyond ye see." These books, it is alleged, "do conteyne in them pestiferous errors and blasphemies, and for that cause shall from hensforth be reputed and taken of all men for bokes of heresie, and worthy to be dampned, and put in perpetuall oblivion." Of these works, the first two, namely, the "Parable of the Wicked Mammon" and the "Obedience of a Christian Man," were written by Tyndale, while the "Supplication of the Beggars" was by Simon Fish. This last publication gave considerable uneasiness to Cardinal Wolsey, who was personally attacked in it, and sought by every means to discover and punish its author.—*Athenæum*.

GRAY'S-INN GRAND DAY.—The Grand Day of Trinity Term was celebrated on the 9th instant by the members of this Society. Among the guests were the treasurers of Lincoln's-inn, the Inner Temple, and the Middle Temple, Lord Chief Justice Bovill, Lord Justice Mellish, Vice-Chancellor Wickens, Mr. Justice Lush, the Right Hon. Dr. Ball, Mr. Serjeant Sargood, &c. Previously to dinner the annual prize, amounting to 25*l*. (an Exhibition founded by Mr. John Lee, Q.C., LL.D., late a Bencher of the Inn), for the best essay selected for this year upon the following subject—"The Feudal Tenures: their

Origin, their Nature, and the Causes which led to their Abolition"—was awarded to Mr. Walter Galt Gribbon, a student of the Society; and the subject for the essay for the ensuing year was announced to be as follows:—"A sketch of the History of the Mercantile Law of England from the earliest times to the passing of the Mercantile Law Amendment Act, 1856."

RARA CANIS.—An historical dog with singularly blue blood, was exhibited at the Crystal Palace Dog Show. The *Standard* says:—"Among the mastiffs, Mr. H. D. Kingdom exhibits in the champion class a dog named Barry, of pure Lime Hall Breed. His breed is said to have the purest ascertained pedigree in England, and to have been originally in the possession of Sir Percy Leigh at the time he fought at Agincourt, in 1415, when his mastiff bitch saved his life upon the field of battle. The Leighs state that the breed has never been crossed in their hands."

ROYAL DEATHS FROM SMALL-POX.—By way of impressing the ravages of small-pox in the pre-Jannerian period on people's minds in a manner more picturesque than that of ordinary statistics, Dr. John Gairdner selects the history of a few Royal Houses. Thus, of the descendants of Charles I. of Great Britain, he finds that of his 42 lineal descendants up to the date 1712 five were killed outright by small-pox—viz., his son Henry, Duke of Gloucester, and his daughter Mary, wife of the Prince of Orange and mother of William III.; and three of the children of James II.—viz., Charles, Duke of Cambridge, in 1677; Mary, Queen of England, and wife of William III., in 1694; and the Princess Maria Louisa, in April, 1712. This does not include, of course, severe attacks not fatal, such as those from which both Queen Anne and William III. suffered. Of the immediate descendants of his contemporary, Louis XIV. of France (who himself survived a severe attack of small-pox), five also died of it in the interval between 1711 and 1774—viz., his son Louis, the Dauphin of France, in April, 1711; Louis, Duke of Burgundy, son of the preceding, and also Dauphin, and the Dauphiness, his wife, in 1712; their son, the Duc de Bretagne, and Louis XV., the great-grandson of Louis XIV. Among other Royal deaths from small-pox in the same period were those of Joseph I., Emperor of Germany, in 1711; Peter II., Emperor of Russia, in 1730; Henry, Prince of Prussia, 1767; Maximilian Joseph, Elector of Bavaria, December 30, 1777.—*British Medical Journal*.

As a proof of the luck which occasionally attends a buyer who rummages old bookshops, it is mentioned that out of a box marked "All these books 3*d*. each," a gentleman recently picked a copy of the second edition of Henry VIII.'s book against Luther, and Bishop Fisher's defence of the same.

AN INGENIOUS AND USEFUL MODERN CHAIR.—In a recent article we noticed Dr. Johnson's chair as a piece of furniture, with many venerable associations connected therewith; and there are many other chairs more antique, with traditions which carry us back to the early times of our history. But these, however venerable, are after all *simple* chairs. It was left to modern industry and invention to devise one which answers a *double* purpose. Mr. Peirce has produced a Library Chair, solid and comfortable, but designed to be used at pleasure as a pair of library steps or short ladder. The contrivance by which this conversion can be achieved is no disfigurement to the chair itself, as it is concealed, and the alteration from a chair into a ladder is effected in the twinkling of an eye without force or exertion. The design is as simple as it is useful, and moreover it can be safely depended upon. To enhance its utility, it is a marvel of cheapness, and it will become an indispensable convenience in every library. The inventor's manufactory is at 109, Hatton Garden.